

A regular meeting was held at the Kent Town Hall, 25 Sybil's Crossing, Town of Kent, New York.

**Resolution #301 - Open Executive Session**

On the motion by Supervisor Fleming  
Seconded by Councilwoman Osborn

Resolved: Town Board entered into executive session at 6:35 p.m. to discuss a matter relating to the medical, financial credit or employment history of a particular person.  
Motion carried.

**Resolution #302 - Close Executive Session**

On the motion by Councilman Tierney  
Seconded by Councilwoman Osborn

Resolved: Executive session closed at 7:00 p.m. No action was taken.  
Motion carried.

**Resolution #303 - Open Public Hearing – Term Limits**

On the Motion by Supervisor Fleming  
Seconded by Councilman Osborn

Resolved: The Public Hearing is open.  
Motion carried.

Deputy Town Clerk read Public Hearing Notice into the record.

Recess from Public Hearing.

**Senator Gipson Legislative Update**

Senator Gipson said since he was elected in 2012 he has been trying to get around to all the towns and villages and cities in the 41<sup>st</sup> senate district which represents almost all of Dutchess and half of Putnam which you know. He thinks it's important because he is the ranking member on the senate local government committee. So it's very important that he stays in contact with his local governments. Try to find out what's happening in their world so we can try to be helpful. He was also a former local elected official himself in the Village of Rhinebeck where he lives. So he does have great sympathy and respect for what you are doing up here. He understands the problems they are facing. He wants to give a brief overview of what he has been working on this last session that might interest you in terms of local government. He knows that one of the issues that we face most is dealing with ideas that Albany sends down that they think are good ideas. Sometimes they are but they ask you to pay what he thinks is really more than their fair share for them. We have been working very diligently on the issue of mandate relief, trying to find ways to alleviate the burden that is often placed upon you that he thinks is unfairly. We introduced a constitutional amendment that would prohibit New York State from handing down any additional unfunded mandates. He is not sure if the town has passed a resolution supporting that or not but we have been asking our local governments to do that. He has brought with him tonight his director of government affairs Brian Kelly who will be taking notes of any questions we have. He can send you any legislation that they have been working on that you might be interested in. He wanted to mention too that in this year's budget if you weren't clear that the aid to municipalities, the aim funding that you always receive did remain the same as last year \$58,361. They were happy with the fact that they were able to maintain the same level of funding. They were many collages that wanted to cut it and they felt it was not fair or right so they fought hard to keep it the same. They actually fought to increase it but they were happy that the compromise was to at least keep it the same so there are no cuts. The consolidated local street and highway improvement program, chips funding that is very important to the town and was able to stay at the same record high level that you received last year. Last year if you remember you received a substantial increase in the chips funding. We kept it the same this year \$228,605 and then one of things we really fought hard for after this extreme winter that we had. When all the roads that were already suffering due to lack of enough funding that is being provided to you. We are

really suffering even more and so we really went to bat and asked the governor's office and our colleagues to try and support the budget an additional line. We ended up calling it extreme winter recovery money. For lack of a better name but the town's share of that was \$26,898. That is extra money that the town will be receiving. It works almost identical to the chips funding and hopefully that will help a little bit with some of the road repair. He wanted to mention while it's not specifically local government related the town is located in an area that is heavily wooded with a lot of parks in the area and we have really taken the lead on trying to combat lyme disease and tick borne illness. This year we were able to secure additional funding in the budget to do more research on it but also a patient protection bill that we co sponsored that did pass in the senate and has been signed by the governor. It will help many victims in the area that are suffering from that and we hope to continue working on that. Also, within the budget in terms of parks which are, vital to this area overall there was, \$92 million in infrastructure and capital improvements to state parks in the budget that we advocated for strongly. He is on the tourism and parks committee in the state senate as well, Fahenstock Park received an additional \$500,000 within the state budget to make sure the areas surrounding us are being maintained to the level that encourages people to come here and hopefully stop off in Kent and spend some money while they are here.

The Good Neighbor Act is a piece of legislation that we introduced that you may be aware of or not be, it is something they think will be helpful to local governments. Several towns asked them to pursue this. When you have a bank come in and take over a property in foreclosure it has been their experience from hearing from towns and villages that these banks are not good neighbors. They don't take care of the property, they don't fix the windows when they get broken, they don't paint the house, and they don't mow the yard and when you try to reach them to complain about it there is no one to take your call. So we have introduced something called the Good Neighbor Act which would require that all banks, credit unions that take over a property provide you with a name of someone to actually call and also that they abide by the local laws but also by the state maintenance code laws as well. That is something that we are trying to get aggressively pushed because we know that having a home in foreclosure or any business building in foreclosure is just not good for your neighborhood and economy.

He mentioned the police chief will be receiving in the mail very soon a letter sent today to all police chiefs, all law enforcement in the district about the large heroine package of legislation that we just past. It is approximately ten different bills that give local justice department and law enforcement departments a lot more tools and a lot more ways to deal with heroine being sold in our communities. It also helps those that are either currently addicted or who are recovering by opening up a lot more possibilities to receive money through their insurance for rehab. This is something that has become critical that we deal with in all our local communities and he is sure we have a presence of it here as well. We are committed to working with our law enforcement to do that. Your police chief will be receiving a letter that addresses the legislation passed and explains it in real detail.

Before he takes questions on September 27, 2014 they are having their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans and Family Fair. It is for all veterans and their family members in Dutchess and Putnam County. If you are a veteran at any time in the history of our country or if you are related to a veteran in any time in the history of our country not only wife or husband but also mother, father, brother, cousins, any relationship to veterans you can come to this. There will be sixty vendors present, offering free services to veterans, from healthcare to banking, recreation, and lots of volunteer opportunities all free. They will also be doing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Hall of Fame recognizing veterans nominated for the Hall of Fame they will be doing a special ceremony for Korean War Veterans and a separate ceremony for Vietnam War veterans. He encouraged everyone to come.

He said he would be happy to entertain any questions or comments at this time. Councilman Denbaum asked if there is anything on his agenda or the state senate's agenda for tax relief for the residents here. He probably knows real state taxes especially the school taxes portion is out of control and almost unsustainable, there has been some talk about some state aid to municipalities of the school districts but that essentially just shifts the burden from him paying real property taxes to him paying state

income tax. At least the individuals paying state income tax. He doesn't know if there is any plan to keep the budget or reduce the state budget in the future some way that the residents here are not saddled with these enormous tax bills as opposed to a lot of the other states and surrounding areas. Senator Gipson replied first let's be clear most likely the highest part of the residents of Kent tax bill is not the taxes the board is patrolling but school taxes. It is important to make that disclaimer because all too often our local governments are getting blamed unfairly for the high cost of living. We certainly want to help you be able to reduce your taxes where possible. We are trying to do that but really when you are talking about reducing the cost of doing business, you are talking about reducing the cost of living. You can't really be serious about that unless you are addressing what you just brought up which is changing the way we fund our public education system. The concept that it is completely on the backs of property owners is not only unfair but it is no longer adequately funding our schools across the state in an equitable way. It is an extremely outdated method of funding, it is incredibly unfair to property owners' especially senior citizens and it is something that we are really working hard to change. We have introduced three different pieces of legislation that he would be happy to send that offer up three completely different ways to change funding mechanism so that it is fairer and more affordable for everyone. They are going to continue fighting that fight and it is an excellent point he brought up and a very good observation and he couldn't agree more. Councilman Huestis thanked Senator Gipson for coming. He has some things he has discussed with his colleagues; one being drones overhead impacting public safety. He doesn't know if a town could regulate it or possibly the state. There was a problem recently in New York City. He thinks it's just the beginning of these drones, it might be just a hobby but at our fireworks display there was drones going around and we made national news saying aliens attacked Kent. It was good publication for TV having experienced the donut war when he was the Office of Aging Director. He would ask if he does some research he would like to know how, what other towns are facing this. This is something new and when drones are overhead when you have thousands and thousands of people there is a chance somebody is going to get hurt. How is it regulated? He doesn't think anybody has really thought about this yet.

The other thing mentioned is the State Parks. His concern is the Town of Kent has two major state parks, Wonder Lake and Fahenstock. As far as taxes is there anything where the state can help. He read something years ago the state gave the County some back taxes. Is there some aid? Our town not only has state parks and state land and DEC land but New York City DEP has thousands and thousands of acres we are impacted that way in many different ways and what if any type of relief he would ask him to look at that.

Councilman Huestis stated the Good Neighbor Act he mentioned he asked to have on the agenda as far as the zombie houses he has been reading about and hearing about people who are leaving their homes not paying the mortgages and staying in their homes because the bank doesn't catch up to them for two or three years and they are off to Mexico on vacation and stuff like that. He doesn't know what we need to do to shake up the banks possibly the Good Neighbor Act is a possible venture in that. As these homes, we recognize a few that he was going to ask the building inspector to look at this. It impacts the neighbors, it impacts our community and our quality of life and we are all tax payers here and he knows sometimes things are rough but there are other ways instead of abusing the system that could be worked out.

He said yes there is a problem with heroine and more has probably not been reported locally and in the Hudson Valley. His son who is a State Trooper in Poughkeepsie had a situation where past out and there was a needle next door and thank god we saved that life.

Lastly Councilman Huestis stated State Highway Route 52, State Highway Route 311 are untraditional main streets in the Town of Kent. If we apply for a Main Street grant we are probably not eligible. He has lived here 60 years and he has seen things people have turned away. We didn't want the sewer line some 50 years ago it would have been peanuts. Lake Carmel turned it away. A Senior Center funded by federal, state and county dollars for some reason was turned down. He needs to take a Kent First

initiative here and if anything can be done with the state highways in the Town of Kent one thing is traffic lights. We have two hazardous areas, coming off the Lake Carmel exit of I 84, go off the ramp and try and make a left. There have been accidents and we will be talking with the Chief of Police and the traffic safety board on this. The state DOT has to be involved, we need money for traffic lights and he knows being a person who lived here for 60 years he does want to see traffic lights but there have been accidents and it's a quality of life and the safety.

Senator Gipson appreciates his comments and that is exactly why we came tonight, that's exactly the purpose of this meeting. These issues Councilman Huestis brought up with the DOT especially the traffic lights we would be happy to sit down and work with you on that. He has gotten to know the DOT very well in his short time in office. We have been able to partner with them in a very positive way. One big project we are working on in Putnam is building a new overpass over the Taconic State Parkway at the Pudding Street intersection. That is one of their big initiatives that they were able to get funding for. We have developed a good relationship with them. We discovered when we ask, put pressure and make a good sales pitch for the reason why this should be a priority that we have had a lot of success. But we need to get more details from the board about the specifics in our area and suggested we set up a meeting to do that. Regarding the heroine issue he mentioned that there is not only as part of what we past within the state government but also within the federal government. There also is money available that our police department can utilize to do Narcan training which is the overdose drug. We just finished training over 200 people at a forum recently in Poughkeepsie. He knows other police departments are doing it. He doesn't know if we are doing it here but it is something we can receive funding for so if the board wants help looking into that he can help. The Good Neighbor Act, one of the good things about the act is it does address one of the things Councilman Huestis is talking about. If the bill were to pass and become law it would be in effect as soon as a home began the foreclosure process. It would not wait till the home was officially in foreclosure which would be very different than what the laws are now. The minute the bank begins foreclosure proceedings they are now going to be held responsible for that property moving forward until that property changes ownership. That would give a little bit of extra leverage we currently don't have. On parks the EPF fund is a major funding source for parks and we were very vocal this year and insisted the funding not be cut. There was a proposal from the governor's office to cut funding. It would have had devastating effects on our local parks. We have been happy with our ability to maintain that funding but we do need more and if there are parks that you feel are being short changed in your community we would love to hear from you so maybe what we'll do is the DOT/Parks meeting as one meeting. Because we would like to be able to communicate back to the Parks Department and to the DEC about anything that is being short changed in this area they might not be aware of. And last regarding drones it is a very new topic but it's not one that is completely unspoken about in Albany. He is on the Veterans and Homeland Security Committee, we have discussed this several times during our committee meetings. He does suspect that going back next year in that committee you will see several bills introduced to deal with this. He knows the federal government is doing the same. His guess is the state government will beat them to it because it is a little easier to deal with these things within state borders than it is within national borders. He thinks soon we will see some regulations from the state on the types of drones that can be used and whatever else we can do to regulate them he agrees it is something we need to nip now. While now it is all fun and games we have already seen a few close calls we want to make sure we deal with that right away so he takes him very serious on that. He thinks that covers Councilman Huestis' list in brief. Councilman Tierney stated when he meets with DOT with the traffic lights, Ludingtonville Road and Route 52 is a tough intersection and just the general condition of Route 52. We had a construction project south of Route 311 but if you come even north of 311 it just rattles your car to death. We are all paying a hidden tax in the damage to our cars, in the wear and tear. If they could spread a little blacktop of 52 and make our commutes a little pleasurable he would appreciate it. Senator Gipson stated they will definitely pass it on to them and we will create a more extensive list when we meet in the future. Councilman Huestis stated he has a list of safety issues that he drafted and will be sharing with our Chief and Town Board. Something needs to be done at the Ludingtonville intersection; twice he saw two serious accidents. He knows

with talking to Chief DiVernieri that these road issues have been discussed before. Senator Gipson asked Councilman Huestis to share his and they will be happy to utilize it. Councilwoman Osborn stated she and Councilman Tierney are from the previous town board and a few years ago asked the DOT to come in and do a study on the Ludingtonville Exit and Route 52 and they did do a study and they came back. We were asking for a traffic light and they came back and said it wasn't warranted and the configuration of Route 52 Ludingtonville Exit and Horsepound Road it would be very difficult to put a traffic light in. We are talking about accidents. She saw a guy while filling her car at Hess on a motorcycle get killed and she does believe it is a very dangerous intersection and she thinks if they would just come back and rethink the whole thing something could be done. We have to control traffic there because it is a very dangerous situation. Senator Gipson stated he agrees. He thought that tonight when he came across that intersection. He comes across that intersection quite a bit throughout the course of his week. Councilwoman Osborn stated that they were very disappointed with the DOT. Senator Gipson stated he wasn't aware of the study and is glad she brought it up they will ask them to pull that for them and we will meet with them to get the specifics of what was determined and we'll see if maybe it's time for a new study. That is definitely something we will look into. This is the first time that intersection is being brought to his attention through public means but he has experienced it himself. Councilwoman Osborn stated it has been an ongoing problem and the previous town board tried to address it and they tried to get something done about it and they were basically turned down. Senator Gipson stated they will add that to their list of things to work on. We have a lot of DOT work to do here in the Town of Kent. Supervisor Fleming stated it is interesting because she and Councilman Huestis have been talking about some of the needs and have been reaching out to state officials. She was just drafting an email before he came tonight, kind of a wish list for the town, she is going to add some of these items too and we can set a meeting. Senator Gipson stated we should set up this meeting and do the Parks and DOT together and any issues you have in that meeting we will do at the same time. He said he would also like to bring the Tax Relief Town Hall Forum to the Town of Kent. It is something they have been doing all over the district for quite awhile now. It is a forum where they talk about in real detail the various tax reliefs they have been working on and others have been working on. So they will reach out to schedule that too. Supervisor Fleming stated absolutely that would be wonderful. She opened questions to the audience. A resident asked about the legislation regarding zombie homes. Her question is how you can make a bank take care of a piece of property that they don't own. You are saying the minute they start foreclosure they are suppose to take care of the home. The other thing about zombie homes is if we lower property taxes we wouldn't have so many of them. Senator Gipson completely agrees with her and he is regretting that we call this the Good Neighbor Act clearly we should have called it the zombie act. This is seriously an issue and all he can tell her is they have introduced this new piece of legislation. It has gone through the vetting process that Albany has in place which includes going through an enormous amount of lawyers. They have all looked at it and if we can get this placed it would be legal. We would be able to hold banks accountable before they own the property so we are hoping we can get that done. Yes, lowering property taxes is absolutely key to avoiding this and that is something we were talking about before, changing the way we fund our public education system. So we are working on that too. Councilman Huestis stated that in addition to the zombie, he needs to further explain. On Dykeman Road in our town there was a house that was vacated maybe by eviction. All their items were put out on the road. People went through there like it was a tag sale. It was all over the road. He got complains. It took a couple of months but finally our code enforcement officer got whoever is in charge, he believes it was some kind of bank institution. We got a dumpster, it has been cleaned up and now there is a for sale sign in front of it. But it was in bad shape and the neighborhood, the garbage was all over Dykeman Road and we had to take an action on that. It is a quality of life issue. Senator Gipson stated that is why they introduced the legislation. This is an issue that has come up in all our municipalities. He has over 30 in his district and they all have these issues. This is the way to address it, they would like to get it past so they can take care of it. Without passing this legislation it is very difficult to control the issue. Right now banks are able to break to law because there is a big loop hole in it. Diana Tisi asked if she can look on the web to find out the status of the three pieces of legislation that he has initiated.

Can he tell them what they are and where we can find them. Senator Gipson stated that if you go to his website, [gipson.nysenate.gov](http://gipson.nysenate.gov). You can find legislation there that talks about changing the way we fund our public education system and it goes into great detail about the three different ideas. He doesn't think this is the proper venue to get into that because it is dealing with school taxes not taxes that are deal with with this body here. We will be back soon for meetings and anything we didn't cover tonight we would be happy to address in that meeting and don't wait to contact us. You can always give us a call anytime. Their office is in Poughkeepsie right in the middle of the district. Feel free to call anytime. Thank you again.

### **Public Hearing – Term Limits**

Lou Epstein, a Kent resident stated he is very against term limits. Term limits are not necessary to end tenure of officials who the voters don't want. In the Town of Kent when Tony Cazzari ran for a 6<sup>th</sup> term of supervisor, he lost. When Joe Belvedere ran for a 5<sup>th</sup> term of supervisor, he lost. When Joe D'Ambrosio ran for a 3<sup>rd</sup> term on the town board, he lost. What term limits do is take away people's right to vote for candidates who they would vote for if they were allowed to. As to the idea that they for stole corruption he thinks they offer an incentive for corruption. Someone who knows that they can't stay a public servant past a certain date has a reason to look for their next employer while they are in office and maybe do favors and lay foundation for the next thing they are going to be doing. And giving the people who are not in elected office a monopoly on security of tenure is not good for any political system. The bureaucrats and the lobbyists and the staffers and such are able to run rings around the people who don't know what they are doing yet. And just when they learn what they are doing they have to leave. He is very much hopefully that we will not have to give up our right to reelect people we want to reelect and that is all that this really does to us.

Cliff Narbey resident of Kent and member of Kent Fiscal Watch, an organization that has in the past have a website. They have tried to produce a forum to debate this issue. He has been asked to come and talk on behalf of the organization tonight, the majority of our members actually support term limits and while we regret that it is necessary to legislate such a thing we feel unbalanced the arguments in favor of term limits outweigh the arguments against. The idea is to have elections and have people come out and vote in a democracy. Although it doesn't happen here. With all due respect Mr. Epstein we get such a poor turnout, such low participation that we are not really getting an election. It's apathy, it means the people that become entrenched in their position, have the advantage of being an incumbent, they build an organization and support group and they can be elected and reelected and reelected and that may not necessarily be good. We think the term limits will encourage new people to come in because it is somewhat off sets the advantage of the incumbent. We think new ideas, new people coming in periodically is a good thing for government. Yes, we lose some good responsible competent public servants but we are hopeful that they would be encouraged to run for other offices maybe even higher leadership positions. We do think that term limits lessens the chance of people becoming entrenched. There are some pretty horrible examples in our state of federal politicians; state politicians who are deeply rooted in the organization and can't be moved and they are not necessarily helping the people. Joyce Mitchell, member of Kent Fiscal Watch speaks as herself. She totally supports term limits, many of the reasons Cliff Narbey mentioned but she does want to say he believes the bill as presented by the town board is very disappointing to her. Because it does not include all elected officials. Why just the board, why are others excluded? She cannot understand the difference. We have been stuck in this town with people doing their job very poorly for a long long time, getting reelected and reelected while departments failed to make proper financial reports, failed to manage the assets that belong to the people of the town and she doesn't want to see that repeated over and over again. There for she really recommends that this town reviews and looks at what are their reasons for not including every elected official. It has never been explained to her and she would like to understand that if anyone would care to take on that question. Councilwoman Osborn stated the reason she is not for putting all elected officials, you can vote them in and vote them out regardless they don't have to be term limited out. There are offices such as the Town Clerk, the highway superintendent, these are very specialized jobs. Ms. Mitchell stated like the receiver of taxes. Councilwoman Osborn stated she knows she

has a thing because she ran for the receiver of taxes. Ms. Mitchell stated that she doesn't have a thing at all. Councilwoman Osborn stated she did run. Ms. Mitchell stated that she did run for the office but that doesn't mean she has a thing. Councilwoman Osborn stated that there may be things that need to be changed. She is not talking about the receiver of taxes that is something that she wants to separate right now. When you talk about the Town Clerk and Highway. You can't just have someone run for office and win the popular vote because he's a good old guy or he is ambitious enough to have a huge war chest and win the campaign. The person who takes those jobs actually has to have some kind of background in that field. Either one of those jobs, are very difficult jobs. There is a lot of knowledge they need. Mr. Othmer knows roads; he knows how to build things, how to tear things apart. He is very good at that and he has been for many many years because that was his profession. Ms. Cappelli worked 12 years under Mrs. Schanil that was a good background for the town clerk. Also an extremely difficult job, it is just like the court clerks. They are not elected, they are appointed but those are not easy jobs. Those are very technical jobs; you can't just take somebody and put them in that office and say go to work. They really have to have some kind of knowledge, background and training in that job. That is why she would be against those particular jobs. As far as the town board goes, she is not for term limits personally. She thinks the voters whether they want to get out and vote or not she doesn't necessarily want to get into their minds as to why they vote or not but at the same time if people want a particular person they will come out and they will support them. What she has found is most votes don't give a damn for the most part. She goes around with petitions, she knows these people. She has known them for years and she knows they don't go out and vote even when she ask them to. And not vote for her, vote for anybody. Just get out and vote, she doesn't care what party you are, who you vote for just get out and vote and they just don't. Ms. Mitchell stated that Councilwoman Osborn agrees with what Mr. Narbey says, that part of the reasonability and part of the reasons we feel term limits are needed is because we have such a small percentage of active voters. The act of reelecting is flawed by a small representation of the population that comes out and exercises their right to vote and shame on them. However if you have a system that is flawed by an activity then you can look for other answers. She was on the committee to examine the Code for the County. It was the committee that suggested and ultimately had passed the change of code that brought term limits to Putnam County and there were very many people expressing their opinions and in the end that is what prevailed for the voters of Putnam County over the legislator of Putnam County representing the voters. What you say about people doing their job, this is not about Ms. Cappelli or Mr. Othmer and this is not about Ms. Johnson this is about a principal. If you are going to exercise the principal. When you run in this town for clerk of the court or superintendent of highway or collector of taxes you don't have to put forth any special, there is no job description that you have to meet. There is no degree or education that you have to meet to get those jobs that is all part of your campaign when you introduce yourself to the public. So she doesn't see why they should have any special ride that the board doesn't have. They were elected and we are suggesting term limits for them so she suggests we select them as well. For Ms. Cappelli, Mr. Othmer, Ms. Johnson not because of their names or who they are today she knows that in the past we had the same town clerk for many years, many several terms. She had the job for over 20 years. She is not saying she was competent or not competent she is saying she thinks that is an abuse of the electoral system. Term limits would cure that kind of thing. There are many people in this town that could do that job and she is sure there are others who could do the highway department. Mr. Othmer and Ms. Cappelli both went through an election and she just doesn't believe they should have any particular privilege when it comes to being voted upon or term limits then anybody sitting on the board. Supervisor Fleming stated as she said at the meeting when they discussed the law originally and the law as originally presented did include all elected officials and although she personally at this point doesn't have an opinion on term limit because she does very clearly see the pros and the cons for term limits but she does agree that if term limits were to be instituted it should be across the board for elected officials but that version of the law was withdrawn and this was the new proposed law and she thinks and can be corrected if she is wrong but the feeling was at least get some term limit discussion on the table. Ms. Mitchell appreciates the board is voting to put this out as a referendum for the people of this town to vote upon. Hopefully they will come out and do it. Her only objection to the process is that all the elected officials are

not included. Councilman Tierney is not in favor of term limits. He doesn't think our history proves a need for it. He thinks our public has changed administrations when they felt they needed to make change and that is what our history shows. He also thinks on a state level he agrees that there should be term limits. But on our local level he doesn't think it gives anyone any advantage. When he ran he was an outsider, he won. When Councilman Denbaum ran as an outsider, he won. We have a history of people coming from grassroots and winning and displacing long term people who have sat here. He just doesn't see the need for the law in our town. We have competent people you may want to keep. We have board members here, he is sorry he is going to use Supervisor Fleming for this but after this year guess what she is running again so she doesn't have time to even push a project through. A grant takes multiple years, multiple terms. Again the new board members there is a learning curve so their first year they are not making a budget. They are working off a budget that was done from a prior board. They are just being introduced to the way the town spends its money, where does it go, why would the town do things this way. They are losing their first year with just being introduced to it. He really doesn't see a need for it; we have changed supervisors as we were told. We have changed board members whenever we have needed it. Some other positions have been people that have stayed decades but that were the public's choice. They have a choice on who they want to hire and our town when they want a new message they change people. He is not in favor, he doesn't think this town needs it, we have changed people. He doesn't think being an incumbent gives anyone a financial advantage on this little level. As far as a sitting member of the board as the looks of our audience there are ten people here. He doesn't see an overwhelming call for this. He is not in favor. Ms. Mitchell stated the biggest advantage is that it eliminates the professional politician and she thinks most of the people in this town will come out and vote against the professional politician. Councilwoman Osborn asked what a professional politician was. Supervisor Fleming stated it is someone who remains in government their entire career and their entire lives. Diane Tesi stated the previous supervisor included in her salary, grant writing. You don't even take your full salary. You have numerous educated unemployed people in this town that she is sure that if the board requested volunteers to come in and assist the board in grant writing and any other kind of assistances that you would need to make this a money professional run government to accept grants, to have a more financially professional reporting system you would get it. Because there are a lot of people out there that want a change which is why we have a change in our board right now. Term Limits, any other job that you go to in corporate you get three or six month probation. Whether it be to keep the job or get health benefits so to have a board job or supervisor position and say you have to learn on the job is bizarre. What do you learn? The way businesses is run, well get a job in corporate and see how long you last if you need two years to learn your job. All she is saying is that she thinks it's only fair to consider term limits. She appreciates this legislation or this consideration but she believes it should apply to every elected official in this town. Supervisor Fleming stated she appreciates her comment and she really does encourage that if anyone wants to volunteer contact her at [supervisor@townofkentny.gov](mailto:supervisor@townofkentny.gov). If you have a special talent or ability that you would like to lend the town she would be happy to sit down and talk about arranging it. Councilman Huestis stated there will be something as far as what we hope his colleagues will support and it involves volunteers, it involves Kent First initiative. Mr. Epstein stated on an additional matter raised he would say those who want to vote for someone who wants to make a career out of holding public office and think that those who commit to it at that level are the most qualified to hold office should have the ability to vote for such persons. It has been demonstrated in this year, people who held office for term after term have built up enemies term after term until they couldn't win anymore that is the track record of this town. Councilman Huestis appreciates the comments. At this time he supports term limits for the policy making board, the town board. He thinks it's a beginning and a start and not to say change will be forth coming later on but listening to his colleague on the left and leave it open and continue to think about this issue and see where we are going to go. We got this to a public hearing. He is disappointed at the crowd tonight, he wanted to hear more from the people and hopefully we will. Maybe we need to do this one more time. Maybe it wasn't publicized as much, he doesn't know. But it is being discussed and as of right now he is supporting the policy making board as far as term limits as a beginning. He hopes Mr. Othmer the way he is going can stay another twenty years. As long as he saves him

money and he says he is going to say us money. He is interested in comments and we are going to see where we are going. He also wants to know what some of the other towns are doing. Not just in Putnam County. We do a lot of research; we are researching drones right now. We are researching term limits for local officials. He totally agrees with the states and the feds but the local because voter turnout is low. He doesn't know how you light a fire but if we start to empower people, residents. He wants to see volunteers, a thousand people. He understands clean up day was a really poor start. Some of us did go up our roads he got emails asking what happened to clean up day. He thanked you for your comments. Councilman Denbaum stated that he will make a final push for the law. He would address some of the individuals that think we need to have term limits for every office and he agrees. But this was a result of a compromise and he is not a man who compromises for compromise sake. It is probably not his first inclination but if you benefit from a compromise then you should take that while you can. He thinks that the fact that this law would provide a turnover of the town board and the supervisor would be a benefit to the town. Just as if when we came in and did not take a salary increase. The board did not take a salary increase for itself. The board did not extend that to the other offices. The other offices didn't really seem like they wanted one or didn't step up and say me too. But they thought it was a step in the right direction and we took that vote for the board so he thinks it's a good idea and worth doing. If you can't get the whole apple you take one bite at a time. That would be his response for the law not being all encompassing. As for term limits in general he doesn't think we are depriving another of their rights to vote for people. You can't vote for president unless they are 35, they have to be a citizen, they have to be a resident and they have to file all the arcane paperwork with the county board of elections. We put a lot of restrictions on whom and who can't run in elections and this is just another reasonable one. He thinks the idea is that people should come up here and serve on the town board and help their town work and then once they are done, one term, two terms so be off and back working on in the private sector. There should be a constant turn over. The idea that there is a different culture of the people who are in politics and in government and people who aren't he thinks is a problem and maybe it hasn't hashed out that way every election but he thinks the idea that we will not have board members running for more than two elections for this town board would be a good thing for the present time and going into the future. So he asks again the boards support for this law if and when we close the public hearing and bring it to a vote. Supervisor Fleming proposed at this point that she wants to adjourn the public hearing and at our next meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup> she would like to have a public comment period of at least two weeks or she would like a discussion either two weeks or for it to end the day before our next meeting. So that everyone on the board can have an opportunity to review the public comments.

**Resolution #304 - Adjourn Public Hearing**

On the motion by Supervisor Fleming

Seconded by Councilwoman Osborn

Resolved: Public Hearing is adjourned at 8:05p.m until August 5, 2014. Public comments will be open for two weeks ending August 4, 2014.  
Motion carried.

**Workshop**

The Town Board reviewed and discussed the items on the workshop agenda.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Supervisor Fleming opened the meeting with the Salute to the Flag.

**Roll Call:**

Councilman Denbaum: Present

Councilman Huestis: Present

Councilwoman Osborn: Present

Councilman Tierney: Present

Supervisor Fleming: Present

**Resolution #305 - Approve Police Department Purchase of a new Philips HeartStart defibrillator**

On the motion by Councilman Denbaum  
Seconded by Councilman Tierney

Resolved: The Kent Police department is authorized to purchase a new Philips HeartStart Defibrillator for \$1,533.40 from One Beat CPR Learning Center, Inc.  
Motion carried.

**Resolution #306 - Approve Addition to the Sanitation Substitute List**

On the motion by Councilman Denbaum  
Seconded by Councilman Tierney

Resolved: Walter Esuardo Melendez and Matthew Horacio are approved to be added to the Sanitation substitute list.  
Motion carried.

**Resolution#307 - Approve 4 Ton Weight Limit - Nichols Road- Little Fill's Causeway**

On the motion Councilman Denbaum  
Seconded by Councilman Tierney

Resolved: Highway Superintendent is authorized to put into place a 4 ton weigh limit on Nichol's Road Little Fill's Causeway  
Motion carried.

**Resolution#308 - Approve 4 Ton Weight Limit - Sagamore Road Bridge**

On the motion by Councilwoman Osborn  
Seconded by Supervisor Fleming

Resolved: Highway Superintendent is authorized to put into place a 4 ton weigh limit on Sagamore Road Bridge  
Motion carried.

**Approve Sponsorship of 4H Fair: Tabled**

**Resolution #309 - Add Budget Transfer to Increase Revenue Line A.4320 to Agenda**

On the motion by Councilwoman Osborn  
Seconded by Councilman Denbaum

Resolved: Budget Transfer to increase revenue line A.4320 be added to agenda.  
Motion carried.

**Resolution #310 - Add Budget Transfer to Increase Expense Line A.3120.200 to Agenda**

On the motion by Councilman Tierney  
Seconded by Councilman Denbaum

Resolved: Add Budget Transfer to increase revenue line A.3120.200 be added to agenda  
Motion carried

**Resolution #311 - Approval of Budget Transfer to Increase Expense Line A.3120.200**

On the motion by Councilman Tierney  
Seconded by Supervisor Fleming

Resolved: Budget transfer to increase expense line A.3120.200 equipment in the amount of \$5,200 be approved.  
Motion carried

**Resolution#312 - Approval of Budget Transfer to Increase Revenue Line A.4320**

On the motion by Councilman Tierney  
Seconded by Supervisor Fleming

Resolved: Budget transfer to increase expense line A.4320 Federal Aid in the amount of \$5,200 be approved.  
Motion carried

**Resolution #313 - Approve Vouchers and Claims**

On the motion by Councilman Huestis  
Seconded by Supervisor Fleming

Resolved: All Vouchers #20012941- #200129573 and claims submitted by:

1. Arkel Motors, Inc.	\$4,319.50	Auto Parts
2. City Carting	\$5,221.27	Lake Carmel Garbage
	\$7812.56	
3. Cornerstone Appraisal Assoc.	\$3,625.00	Wetlands/Stormwater
4. Timothy J. Curtiss, P.C.	\$5,223.75	Legal Services: Traffic
	\$5,000.00	Legal Services: General
5. Dave's Cast of Characters, Inc.	\$2,892.75	Deposit: Community Day
6. Fireworks Extravaganza	\$2,500.00	Balance of Fireworks Display
7. Global Montello Group	\$6,666.25	Gasoline
8. Insite Engineering	\$30,377.00	Route 52 Sewer District
9. Merritt Construction	\$420,522.70	Application #7
10. NYSEG	\$2,066.03	Electric: Police Station
11. P.F. Beal & Sons, Inc.	\$4,593.00	Water District #2
12. Tire Buys	\$6,798.16	Tires
13. Windstream	\$3,628.72	Telephone Service

In the amount of \$721,418.47 may be paid.

Roll Call:

Councilman Denbaum: abstain  
Councilman Huestis: aye  
Councilwoman Osborn: aye  
Councilman Tierney: aye  
Supervisor Fleming: aye  
Motion carried.

**Resolution #314 - Approval Merritt Construction Application #7 Payment**

On the motion by Councilman Huestis  
Seconded by Supervisor Fleming

Resolved: Application #7 from Merritt Construction is approved for payment.

Roll Call:

Councilman Denbaum: abstain  
Councilman Huestis: aye  
Councilwoman Osborn: aye  
Councilman Tierney: aye  
Supervisor Fleming: aye

Motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

Joyce Mitchell stated that one of the things that Kent Fiscal Watch has been thinking about for a long time and that she would like to just put up as a recommendation. Has the town board considered in any way looking for alternatives to fund what is now called the Central Garage in other words looking for some public/private partnership perhaps bidding out some of that work because there has been a great disparity between the

amount of budget and the amount of billing out to the various departments it serves. Supervisor Fleming stated that Mr. Narbey had brought this up at a previous meeting and actually written to the town board and she is in the process because she thinks what has happened here is since each town department isn't billed individually for labor cost because those cost are absorbed by residents in the entire town and the only thing that is billed out with labor cost is the separate districts like sanitation and Lake Carmel Park District. She doesn't know if we have an accurate number so what she has asked the Director of Municipal Garage and our Finance Director is to actually look at and try to come up with what those actual numbers are so that we can see if we are really falling short or if we are coming close to the mark and she thinks once we figure out those real times are as far as labor cost to the general fund, to the part that everyone pays then we will have an idea if that is something that we really want to move ahead with or if we are actually doing a good job. Ms. Mitchell stated at least they are looking at it. Supervisor Fleming stated that they are. Ms. Mitchell stated that it has not been seriously looked at before. Supervisor Fleming stated we are looking at it. It is a topic we have started really discussing. Ms. Mitchell thanked her.

**Resolution #315 - Adjourn Meeting**

On the motion of Supervisor Fleming  
Seconded by Councilman Huestis

Resolved: Town Board meeting of July 15, 2014 adjourned at 9:45 p.m.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Lauren Louderback  
Deputy Town Clerk